

Precursor Science for the Terrestrial Planet Finder

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The TPF and Darwin Science Working groups have identified a number of critical scientific parameters that must be investigated prior to launching the TPF/Darwin missions. These include the brightness of the dust cloud surrounding the target stars, the incidence of earth-sized planets, and stellar properties such as metallicity and photometric stability. I shall discuss plans for improving our knowledge of these parameters which are both scientifically interesting and of direct relevance to the ultimate design of TPF. In particular, I shall address Spitzer results on zodiacal emission toward a number of TPF/Darwin targets.

